23rd September 1955]

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The scarcity is felt only in respect of stud bulls and especially in the cattle kingdom good stud bulls are not available. That is why we are encouraging stud bulls.

Irrigation channel for Panchamadevi-Villianur villages.

* 2393 *Q*.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Nagarajan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the villagers of Panchamadevi-Villianur in Valavanur Firka in Villupuram taluk, presented a memorandum to the Government about three years ago, requesting the construction of a channel for irrigation purposes of this village branching off either from the Valavanur alangal direct or from the channel flowing into the Siruvanthadu Eri, and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : The villagers of Panchamadevi-Villianallur in Villupuram taluk presented a petition to the Government in December 1953 requesting the construction of a branch channel from the supply channel to Siruvanthadu eri for irrigation in their village. A report has been called for from the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) on this and it is awaited.

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : Sir, all the four questions Nos. 2394 to 2397 may be taken up together.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Sir, all these questions relate to different subject-matters and require information to be elicited from the Hon. Minister concerned. So the questions may be put separately and answers given separately so that the Members can put supplementaries on each question.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Minister will read the answers separately for each question.

Laccadive Group of Islands.

* 2394 *Q*.—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any and if so, how many, courts with judicial officers possessing Law degrees in the whole of the Laccadive Group of Islands; and

(*b*) whether there are any courts of appeal presided over by legally trained judicial officers to deal with litigation from these islands?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (*a*) There are no such courts.

(*b*) In criminal cases all appeals lie to the Collector or the Inspecting Officer except certain categories of appeals which lie to the High Court. In civil cases, the Collector, the Inspecting Officer, the Collector's Assistant and the High Court of Judicature are the appellate authorities. The Collectors, their Personal Assistants and the Inspecting Officers are not judicial officers but they have acquired experience in judicial work, by functioning as Magisterial and Revenue Courts.

Sri K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Sir, an I.C.S. officer was specially deputed to enquire into the conditions of these islanders some years back and a report has been submitted by that officer. May I know whether the report contained specific recommendations about appointing legally qualified men and if so, whether the Government have thought over the matter to implement the recommendation?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : Yes, Sir, such a suggestion has been made and it is being examined by the Government.

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, the Collector is after all an Executive Officer and his headquarters is also at Kozhikode. Why should not then the appellate powers be conferred on the District Judge of Malabar so that the islanders might get real justice?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : I do not think that justice is being tampered with now. But, at any rate, we will examine that proposal.

Sri K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Sir, the islanders are denied the ordinary legal facilities that are available in the mainland for a long number of years and considering the difficulties felt by the islanders, will the Government take necessary steps to appoint at least one legally qualified man as a Civil and Criminal Judge in the island in the immediate future?

8–50 a.m. The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : I said that the question will be examined.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall take up the next question.

Sri P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : On a point of order, Sir. There were four main questions with regard to Laccadive group of islands. But the Hon. Minister gave answer only for the first question No. 2394. He did not give any answer to question Nos. 2395, 2396 and 2397. Now the Hon. the Deputy Speaker has asked the Hon. Minister to answer question No. 2398. The other three questions remain unanswered, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only question No. 2395 is to be taken up.